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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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THE TRAVELS OF A CYCLONE

Utilizing an exceptionally large fund of data from all parts of the northern hemisphere, C.L. Mitchell of the U.S. Weather Bureau has recently traced the paths of all cyclones and anticyclones --the "lows" and "highs" of the weather map -- that appeared in the northern hemisphere during the first four months of the year 1925. One interesting result of this study was the discovery of the first case positively known to science in which a cyclone traveled completely around the globe.

The disturbance in question first appeared on the morning of February 23 as a small "secondary" -- i.e., a minor cyclone developed on the border of an older one -- near Havre, Montana. It moved eastward, rapidly increasing in intensity, but instead of moving down the St. Lawrence valley and going out to sea, as the majority of cyclones do, it turned northward in eastern Canada and traveled up to the region of Hudson Strait. Here it made a loop to the west and south and then moved east, crossing central Greenland. It reached Sweden March 6 and Leningrad March 7. It then traveled across northern European Russia and southeastward across Siberia. It was central northwest of Korea on the morning of the 13th. By the 14th it was near Tokyo, after which it moved rapidly across the Pacific Ocean, reaching the coast of British Columbia on the 19th. It then followed a course across North America somewhat to the northward of its previous course, passing its starting point on the morning of the 20th and travelling 2,000 miles beyond that point, before it finally died out on the Gulf of St. Lawrence on March 23. The total length of the journey was approximately 21,400 miles.

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